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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ASUNCION 001063

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR WHA/BSC AND USAID (MAGAN)  
WHITE HOUSE FOR SONYA MEDINA  
NSC FOR SUE CRONIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PARAGUAY: READOUT OF THE FIRST LADIES CONFERENCE  
TECHNICAL MEETINGS, JULY 13-15

11. (U) SUMMARY: From July 13-15, Paraguay hosted representatives from 20 countries at technical meetings in preparation of the 13th Western Hemisphere First Ladies Conference. The conference will be held September 28-30 in Asuncion. Delegates debated the Draft Declaration centered around the conference's main theme, Women and Family. END SUMMARY.

12. (U) Delegates from 20 countries attended the technical meetings for the 13th Western Hemisphere First Ladies Conference July 13-15 in Asuncion, Paraguay. Paraguay, as host to the technical meetings and the upcoming conference to be held September 28-30, drafted a preliminary version of a Conference Declaration and a follow-up Action Plan. Four representatives from Washington attended the technical meetings and brought experience from previous First Ladies Conferences and first-hand knowledge of the plenary session debates. The U.S. delegation consisted of Sonya Medina, The White House, Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director of Projects for the First Lady's Office; Michael Magan, USAID, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean; Maureen Dugan, USAID, Office of Economic Growth for Europe and Eurasia; and Patrick Marcham, Department of Health and Human Services, International Health Officer/LTS Corporation. The Protocol office within the Paraguayan First Lady's Office handled all of the logistics of the conference and events, which were held at the Asuncion Yacht and Golf Club. (COMMENT: The Paraguayans approached our USAID mission seeking financial support to help offset some of the costs associated with the conference, including the venue and simultaneous translation. Post agreed to fund interpretation services. END COMMENT.)

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The Draft Declaration  
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13. (U) The Draft Declaration is centered around the conference's main theme, Women and Family. During the technical meetings, delegates debated several of the key issues raised in the draft. By the conference's end, all delegations agreed to bring the text of the Draft Declaration back to their capitals for review. The draft text considered the commitments States made in the following meetings and documents: The World Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), the Fourth International Women's Conference (Beijing, 1995), the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Beijing 5), the Millennium Declaration (2000-2015), and international Human Rights Conventions pertaining to women and children. The Draft Declaration also affirmed States' commitments to the following principles:

- Human rights and women's development;
- Access to comprehensive health care especially during pregnancy and postpartum, including sexual and reproductive health, HIV and HPV;
- Strengthening of family relations;
- Participation of women in remunerated work;
- Women's access to education;
- Women's access to productive and financial resources;
- Food and nutritional security (especially for pregnant women and children under 5);
- Raising awareness of trafficking in persons issues;
- Impact of economic policies on the living conditions of rural women;
- and International Migration issues.

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Outstanding Issues  
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14. (U) During the plenary session of the second round of technical meetings prior to the First Ladies Conference, the delegates will review the Draft Declaration and seek consensus so that the document may be signed by the First Ladies of the Western Hemisphere.

15. (U) Because of a lack of time, delegates in the plenary session were unable to start debate on the draft Action Plan. As a result, the group agreed to review the draft declaration with their respective capitals and to provide comments on the Action Plan draft via email. The plenary will revisit the Action Plan during the second round of technical meetings in September and approve via consensus.

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Next Steps  
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16. (U) Post remains in contact with the Paraguayan delegation and will attend a logistics meeting planned for August 25 to discuss security, accommodations, receptions, and functions planned for September's conference. Post will advise of any further developments and report via septel.

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Comment  
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17. (SBU) The Draft Declaration contains a reference to Sexual and Reproductive Rights that is unacceptable to the U.S. and must be bracketed for purposes of discussion during the next round of technical meetings. Additionally, the U.S. delegation anticipates that it will be difficult to reach consensus on an Action Plan.

18. (U) The U.S. delegation cleared this cable.  
KEANE